

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 14687 141754Z

73

ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PRS-01 AID-10 PM-03 EB-03 OMB-01 L-02

EUR-10 DODE-00 RSR-01 /080 W
----- 085035

R "541557Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5947

USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 14687

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, MARR, CA, HU, ID, PL, VS

SUBJECT: MR IV WEEKLY SITREP AUGUST 5-11, 1973

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON INFO USDAO SAIGON USSAG NKP THAI
REPEATED TO YOU

QUOTE CAN THO 0644

1. SUMMARY: VC ACTIVITY CONTINUED AT ABOUT THE SAME
LEVEL AS THE PREVIOUS WEEK, CONCENTRATED AGAIN IN CHUONG
THIEN. SENATORIAL ELECTION ACTIVITY
HAS INCREASED SOMEWHAT. THE LATEST GVN POLICY
ON VAT IS NOT YET FULLY UNDERSTOOD IN THE DELTA.

2. SECURITY SITUATION: (A) FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 3
TO 10 MR IV REPORTS INDICATE AN AVERAGE OF 37 VC-INITIATED
INCIDENTS PER DAY AS COMPARED WITH 38 THE PRECEEDING WEEK
AND 24 THE WEEK OF JULY 22-28. INCIDENTS INCLUDED AN
AVERAGE OF 3-4 GROUND ATTACKS PER DAY, 27 ATTACKS BY FIRE,
4 HARRASSMENTS, AND 1-2 TERRORIST INCIDENTS. GVN TROOPS

KILLED AVERAGE 22 PER DAY, 82 WOUNDED, AND 6 MISSING. THE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 14687 141754Z

GVN CLAIM VC KILLED AVERAGED 47 PER DAY, AND 2-3 CAPTURED. VC MILITARY ACTIVITY CONTINUES CONCENTRATED AGAIN IN CHUONG THIEN, BUT SIGNIFICANT ATTACKS WERE REPORTED ALSO IN SA DEC, DINH TUONG, VINH BINH AND BAC LIEU, LARGELY DIRECTED AGAINST PF OUTPOSTS. RENEWED NVA INFILTRATION IS REPORTED THROUGH KIEN GIANG TO THE CENTRAL CHUONG THIEN AREA.

(B) FOR AUGUST 10, MR IV REPORTS 30 VC-INITIATED INCIDENTS, INCLUDING 4 GROUND ATTACKS, 19 ATTACKS BY FIRE, 4 HARRASSMENTS, 2 TERRORIST INCIDENTS, AND ONE "POLITICAL" INCIDENT. THE "POLITICAL" INDICENT OCCURRED WHEN A GROUP OF PF APPARENTLY ABANDONED AN OUT-POST IN HUONG MY DISTRICT, KIEN HOA PROVINCE, AS A RESULT OF VIET CONG PROSELYTING. CORPS REPORTS 25 TROOPS KILLED, 99, WOUNDED, AND 9 MISSING. CORPS CLAIMS 52 VC KILLED, ONE CAPTURED AND TO SUSPECTS DETAINED.

3. GVN ACTIVITIES: (A) PRICES OF MOST COMMODITIES CONTINUED TO

SKYROCKET IN THE DELTA. CONFUSION PREVAILS AT THE WEEKEND AS TO THE PRECISE TERMS OF THE NEW GVN POLICY ON THE VALUE ADDED TAX.

(B) ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN ACTIVITY PICKED UP SLIGHTLY DURING THE WEEK IN THE DELTA, WITH THE DEMOCRACY SLATE AND THE WHITE ELEPHANT SLATE MOST ACTIVE.

(C) "DAN CHU IS GOOD FOR YOU." TAMMANY HALL HAS COME TO THE DELTA. QUACH NHUT DANH, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN OF THE CAN THO CITY DEMOCRACY PARTY, HAS DISCOVERED THAT THE PUBLIC HANDOUT IS A FERTILE STIMULANT OF GRASS-ROOT SUPPORT. DANH, WHO IS ALSO REGIONAL MEDIAL WAREHOUSE SUPERVISOR, IS SENDING DEMOCRACY PARTY REPRESENTATIVES ALONG WITH THE MOBILE HEALTH TEAMS THAT VISIT PHONG DINH PROVINCE VILLAGES. HE HAS ARRANGED TO HAVE FOUR TIMES THE USUAL AMOUNTS OF MEDICINES DISTRIBUTED ON THESE MISSIONS - JUST TO MAKE SURE NOBODY MISSES THE POINT.

4. SELECTED PROVINCE COMMENT: (A) THE DINH TUONG VICE CONSUL REPORTS THAT VC ACTIVITY IN THE PROVINCE IS CONCENTRATED IN THE NORTHEAST AND SOUTHEAST CORNERS OF CAI LAY DISTRICT. FOR THE WEEK ENDING 0600 AUGUST 11, 40 OF THE 64 VC INCIDENTS REPORTED IN THE PROVINCE WERE IN CAI LAY. THE GVN, PROVINCE-WIDE, LOST 18 KILLED DURING THE WEEK, 94 WOUNDED, AND 9 MISSING. THE GVN CLAIMS 39 VC KILLED AND ONE RALLIER BUT NO VC CAPTURED. ON THE NIGHT OF AUGUST 10-11, THE BINH LOC OUTPOST IN CAI LAY (XS 244405) WAS APPARENTLY OVERRUN, RESULTING IN 5 RF WOUNDED, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAIGON 14687 141754Z

6 MISSING, 13 M16S AND ONE RADIO LOST, AS OPPOSED TO JUST ONE VC CLAIMED KILLED.

(B) THE VINH BINH PROVINCE REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS INCREASED VC ACTIVITY IN TIEU CAN DISTRICT ALONG THE BASSAC RIVER SINCE THE ARRIVAL OF THE NEW PROVINCE CHIEF. FOUR VC COMPANIES HAVE BEEN UPGRADED TO BATTALION STATUS IN THE AREA (THE 525TH, 520TH, 513TH, AND THE 517TH BATTALION), IN ADDITION TO THE 312TH KHMER

BATTALION AND THE 306TH BATTALION ALREADY IN THE AREA. REPORTEDLY, THE D-3 VC REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS HAS MOVED FROM ITS FORMER POSITION ALONG THE VINH BINH-VINH LONG BORDER TO TIEU CAN (AT XR 330800).

5. LATE ADDENDUM: BECAUSE OF ALLEGED GVN BOMBING OBSERVED AUGUST 7 SOME 5-7 KILOMETERS AWAY FROM THE ICCS SUB-REGION SITE IN GIONG TROM DISTRICT IN KIEN HOA, THE POLISH AND HUNGARIAN TEAMS MAY WISH TO ABANDON THE SITE (SEPTTEL FOLLOWS). SIGNED LEHMAN UNQUOTE
MARTIN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** LIMDIS
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TREATY VIOLATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: kelleyw0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SAIGON14687
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS MARTIN
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730867/aaaajyag.tel
Line Count: 130
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kelleyw0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31-Oct-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <31-Oct-2001 by kelleyw0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 980311
Subject: MR IV WEEKLY SITREP AUGUST 5-11, 1973 FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON INFO USDAO SAIGON USSAG NKP THAI
TAGS: MARR, MOPS, CA, HU, ID, PL, VS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005